

# Agua Dulce Living

ISSUE 2

• ESTABLISHED 2005 TO KEEP YOU INFORMED •

Dec. 2005

I really admire the pioneers in this town. The “old-timers” who moved here years ago when we didn’t have all the conveniences we enjoy today. I’m sure it wasn’t easy moving your family way out here in the middle of nowhere and building your home on a bare piece of dirt covered with tumble weeds.

Imagine being responsible for digging your own well as your only water source. You just don’t pick up the phone and call the local DWP Office. Where do you even begin? Well even today most people begin with a “witcher”. This has fascinated me since I was a little kid watching “Bonanza” on Sunday evenings.

For those of you who have never heard of a witcher, they are the mysterious people who walk your property and with the aid of a willow branch or metal rods are able to divine where the water is located underground. And that’s where you need to dig your well. How do they know? Well as I understand it, it is a gift and many times the “gift” is passed down from generation to generation. Oh sure today we have geologists, aerial maps and the like to work with but just to make sure, every body calls in a witcher. Agua Dulce means Sweet Water in Spanish. And nothing is sweeter then a good producing well out here in the high dessert.

Back to conveniences, you’d be amazed at what we have available here to make our life easy. I hate driving to the city, with all the noise and traffic and I like to stay here as much as possible. I also like to support our local business.



Enjoying a cup of Joe at Sweetwater Farms

Right next-door to the Sweetwater Café you’ll find our local hardware store. Owned for years by Trish and her late husband Art, Agua Dulce Hardware is just chalk full of stuff. You can pretty much find anything you need and a cup of coffee and a doughnut. Trish has an interesting accounting method which consists of you picking out what you need and then you just put it on your “tab”. At some later date you settle up. Try that at home Depot! Or, try calling Home Depot on Thanksgiving Day and asking them to open up special just for you. Because you need 18 nuts and bolts for your project. Trish got that call; she left her oven side turkey vigil, jumped on her bicycle, rode into town, opened her store and helped a neighbor in

need. That’s what Agua Dulce Living is like!

The Hardware store is also a great place to meet with neighbors and discuss local, national and world affairs. Just the other night when I drove by, Jim and Gary were sitting on the bench outside the hardware store deep in conversation. I’m quite sure they were solving the problems of the world and I for one will sleep better tonight knowing they’re on the case!

Our local businesses are awfully trusting of the community they serve. And I believe for the most part we do not disappoint them. Sandy, who owns Bullwinkel’s Gifts & Antiques, leaves her displays out at night (o.k. she does have security cameras, we’re not stupid here). Bad people could just run off with some of her treasures, but that hasn’t happened yet. Instead, Sandy says that several times she’s come to work in the morning and there will be an envelope shoved under her door. Inside the envelope is a short note signed by Crystal or George, explaining the need for a last minute gift, a list of what they took and the price, so it could be billed later when the store is open. How’s that for honesty, really I’m very proud to be a part of this town.

This is not to say that Agua Dulce is completely crime free, why just last summer we had a rash of

mailbox thefts. So a lot of us have a PO Box over at Sweetwater Farms. A couple of weeks ago I was in the market looking for a package I was expecting and it wasn't there. Disappointed, I mentioned it to Verlene, the market manager. The next day while I was out showing property, my cell phone rings. It's Verlene, to tell me a package just arrived for me. Have you ever experienced that kind of service from your local post office? I think not!

Superior service is not limited to just the people who live here. David, our UPS delivery man is a legend in our town. He is always in good spirits, never wears long pants, (no matter the temperature) and carries dog biscuits in his big brown van just in case he sees your dog running loose. He'll lure your dog into his truck and bring it home to you. He knows everyone in town and provides the best service in the whole wide world! Since he knows my schedule, many times he's delivered my UPS package directly to me at the Vineyard even though it's addressed to me at my home address.

These are just a few more of the people, places and things that I love about Agua Dulce Living. I would also like to personally thank all of you who took the time to e-mail me with your comments, suggestions and support. I really appreciate it. I was concerned that even though I was having a good time putting this together, maybe no one else would care. The most gratifying moment in my recent memory is a comment that came to me the other day from a local long time resident. He shared with me that even though he never reads anything he struggled through every word of the newsletter, enjoyed it very much and came away from it proud that he was a member of such a warm and

wonderful town. It just made my day!

Thank you for taking the time to read Agua Dulce Living!

*Marilyn Garner*

### *Agua Dulce Vineyards*



Here they are the 2004 winners of the Family of the Year award. Don, Cathy, Angus, Lizzy, Mary and Donny MacAdam. Agua Dulce's own kinder, gentler version of Falcon Crest, a family dynasty. I can't tell you how jealous I am of the MacAdam kids! What were my parents thinking, not owning a vineyard when I was a kid? What a wonderful place to raise your family.

If you've been out behind the Winery gift shop then you've seen the soccer field and the barnyard. Both are spotlessly clean and there are picnic tables just in case you want to sit for a while and enjoy the quiet beauty. The animals are all family pets. There are horses, chickens, bunnies, peacocks, pheasants, a llama, Betsy the Cow, and several different varieties of goats. Two of the goats have four

horns, which is a sign of good luck. Watch out for the llama though, as it has been known to spit and Donny says it tastes like Tabasco. Donny is 10 years old, so he is an authority on such things.

The harvest this year was even better than expected. Instead of the 275 tons the yield was over 400 tons! And that's even after they dropped about a third of the Chardonnay grapes before the harvest. Jim Yerkes, the winemaker, attributes the incredible crop this year to the perfect weather we've had in the past. The actual growing season is April through September. But it's whatever happens in the previous June that pretty much sets the stage for the following year.

If you remember we had a mild summer in 2004, with very few days over 100 degrees. Later in the year we had a lot of rain which pushed the nutrients down deeper into the soil towards the roots. The result was very productive vines with big, fat, juicy clumps of grapes. I can't wait to sample the 2005 vintage!



Give the Vineyard a call at 661 268-7402 or visit their website to see what special things they have planned for the holidays.

Please feel free to drop by and visit me for a wine tasting on Sunday afternoons between 1:00-5:00 pm. And check out the massive 28 foot Christmas tree in the gift shop.



## Agua Dulce Airport



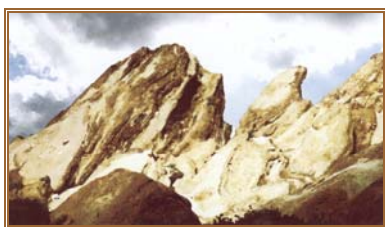
Wayne & Connie Spears, the new owners of the airport, are hosting several open houses at the airport to introduce themselves and share their future plans for the airport. If you get a chance please stop by for some refreshments and information on any of the following dates:

December 1	Thursday	4-9pm
December 2	Friday	4-9pm
December 3	Saturday	11-4pm
December 4	Sunday	11-4pm
December 8	Thursday	4-9pm
December 9	Friday	4-9pm

The Airport is currently involved in an airport modification process initiated by Los Angeles County. And the public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in attending there will be buses available for your convenience. Wayne & Connie welcome your participation and support. Just call (818) 362-1570 for additional details.

If you have any questions or need more information you can reach the L70 Airport direct at 661-268-8835.

## Vasquez Rocks Park



You won't find a more dramatic back drop for recreation than Vasquez Rocks. The vegetation is

sparse, mostly annual and perennial grasses, chamise, yucca, California Juniper, scrub oak, manzanita and some succulent desert plants. Still, there's plenty of wildlife including coyotes, gophers, jack rabbits, lizards, snakes and birds. And once after a rain when I was out walking, I ran into Scott & Shannon and they pointed out the big old mountain lion prints in the mud.

Speaking of wildlife, if you're there this coming New Years Day, be on the look out for that rare bird, the High Desert Runner! They're having their Mountain Trail Fun Run (aka the "Hangover Run") on January 1, 2006 at Vasquez Rocks County Park. The run starts at 8:30 am. They'll meet in the lower parking area inside the park, located on Escondido Canyon Road near Agua Dulce Canyon Road. John & Betsy Swallow are the hosts - you can call them for more information. 661-296-6689.

## Local Real Estate

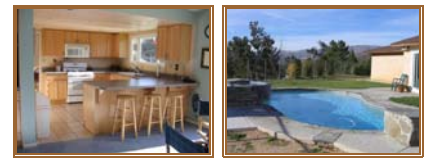
Real estate tends to slow down during the holidays. People are under enough stress this time of year without having to worry about uprooting the family and moving. But, then again life is something that happens while we're busy making other plans. So like it or not, there's always job transfers, divorces, new babies, old babies finally leaving home for collage or any number of reasons people decide to move no matter what. On average though, houses are sitting on the market a little longer these days.

	Acton	Agua Dulce	Canyon Country
Active Listings	44	46	185
Avg list price	778.4	1,127.5	829.9
Avg days on market	53	53	55

Source: Realtor® Report, November 8, 2005

## Featured Properties

**2904 Calmgarden Rd**  
**\$ 749,000**



Just minutes away from Agua Dulce, is this mountain charmer. Located in Country Way Estates in Acton this 2,175 sq ft home borders the Angeles National Forest. Bring your family to this lovely 4 bedrooms and 2 ½ bath ranch home. Newer dishwasher and sliding glass doors and windows installed in 2004. Backyard pool and spa. 3 car garage with built-ins and a ½ bath. 4.8 acres on a paved road with public utilities and cable available. Gated RV access on side. Zoned for horses. Easy freeway access without the noise. Watch the Osprey and Hawks glide over the canyon right from your kitchen window. Call me to set up your private showing.

**33502 Agua Dulce Cyn Rd**  
**\$ 1,050,000**





3,200 Square foot custom split level beauty with three living areas. Dream kitchen. 4 bedrooms, 3 ½ baths. Very private master bedroom, guest/maid/teen/mother in-law/ quarters. Excellent well. Huge 6 stall barn with tack room. Lighted arena and round pen. 3 separate pastures with fencing and cross fencing. Just cut a hole in the fence and you're in the airport. This 5 acre property is perfect for pilots or horse lovers. Call me to set up your private showing.

**35003 Johnson Road**  
**\$ 1,429,000**



I have a particular fondness for this property. After my divorce in 2002, I rented the guest house for a year. At the time it was one of the oldest houses in Agua Dulce. It was the cutest old place you'd ever hope to see. It even had a claw foot bathtub! I loved that little house and it's located right across the street from the vineyard, so the view is incredible.

One day I met a woman at the vineyard whose Grandfather actually built the house back in the 30's. She had fond memories of visiting her grandparents there when she was a kid. So of course I invited her over to check it out, we both cried. It was great to hear her stories of life in early Agua Dulce.

I spent almost every summer evening on that old stone front porch enjoying a glass of wine (or two) with Gerard or Kris or many other family and friends who would stop by to visit and just soak up the view.

The 2 bedroom, 1 bath guesthouse was completely remodeled in 2004 and is absolutely gorgeous! Big kitchen with granite counter tops a huge master bedroom with views of the vineyard. Hardwood floors throughout. Great laundry area off the kitchen and outside a covered gated patio to keep your dog safe and out of David's UPS truck. The best part is they kept the antique claw foot tub! The guesthouse is perfect for sharing with your parents or other family members, you could set it up as your home office (great commute) or you could even rent it out for additional income to help out with your mortgage.

The main house was custom built in 1997 and is approximately 3,200 sq ft. with 4 bedrooms and 3 baths. The house was built by a contractor so it is very well crafted with lots of designer touches throughout. Beautiful granite kitchen with a huge stone fireplace in the family room, which even though it's a good size room it appears very warm and cozy. All the rooms are large with lots of closets and storage space. 3 car attached garage. The huge covered front porch is a perfect place to relax and take advantage of the stunning vineyard view. This 2 acre parcel is zoned for horses and already has a shaded piped arena just waiting for you to bring your horse or potbellied pig. Call me, I love showing this house.

## Contact Information

For more information on these properties or for any of your Real Estate needs please feel free to contact me direct or visit my website.

[www.marilynmerlotinscv.com](http://www.marilynmerlotinscv.com)

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**Agua Dulce Vineyards**

9640 Sierra Highway

661-268-7402

[www.aguadulcevineyards.com](http://www.aguadulcevineyards.com)

**Agua Dulce L70 Airport**

33638 Agua Dulce Cyn Rd

661-268-8835

[www.L70airport.com](http://www.L70airport.com)

**Agua Dulce Hardware**

33314 Agua Dulce Canyon Rd

661-268-0167

**Bullwinkel's Gifts & Antiques**

33302 Agua Dulce Canyon Rd

661-268-1535

**Maria Bonita Mexican Restaurant**

33311 Agua Dulce Rd

661-268-8004

**Realty Executives**

24106 Lyons Avenue

Santa Clarita, CA 91321

661-286-8600 vm 4105

**SCV Bookmobile**

33301 Agua Dulce Canyon Rd

Wednesdays, 10am-12& 1-4pm

661-260-1792

**Sweetwater Café**

33300 Agua Dulce Canyon Rd

661-268-1213

**Sweetwater Farms Market**

33301 Agua Dulce Canyon Road  
661-268-0700

**Vasquez Rocks Park**

10700 W. Escondido Canyon Rd,  
661-268-0840

Masthead courtesy of Bob Wynne

**Wynne Fine Arts**

818-761-8956

[www.wynnefinearts.com](http://www.wynnefinearts.com)

If you are not interested in receiving this newsletter simply reply to this e-mail and type, Remove, in the subject line.

If you know of someone who would like to be added, have them e-mail me with, Add, in the subject line.

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